



Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

Supporting Children | Strengthening Families

November 2008

Budget Fact Sheet

DCF Budget Reduction Target Summary

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) faced a deficit of \$7.2 million based on the FY2009 approved GAA. DCF also had to reduce spending by \$15.2 million to meet Governor Patrick's 9c target:

■ **\$7.2m (FY09 deficit) + \$15.2m (9c target) = \$22.4m total shortfall**

DCF's Approach to the Budget Cutting Process

DCF approached the budget cutting process with a commitment to our priorities. Our decision making was guided by:

- **Core Agency Mandate:** Strengthening families, where child abuse or neglect has occurred.
- **Priority Population:** 0 – 18 and 18 – 21 previously involved with DCF.
- **Priority Objectives:** Safely stabilizing and preserving families; safely reunifying families; and safely creating new families.
- **Six priority areas we sought to preserve:**
 - Maintain foster care rates
 - Continue work to reduce caseloads
 - Safeguard community based services
 - Retain enough out-of-home placements to continue progress in reducing the card list
 - Continue significant portion of our Agency-of-Last-Resort role within the system
 - Maintain services to over 18 year olds

Note:

- FY09 GAA minus FY09 9c equals FY09 available

■ Final DCF FY09 Budget

DOLLARS IN MILLIONS

Acct	Acct Name	FY09 GAA	FY09 Projected Deficit	FY09 9C Cuts	Total Cuts	Net FY09 Available
4800-0015	Administration	\$77,338	(\$2,219)	(\$1,766)	(\$3,985)	\$75,572
4800-0016	Roca Transitional Employment	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
4800-0021	Compr Soc Svcs Program	\$5,000	\$0	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)	\$4,000
4800-0025	Foster Care Review	\$2,976	\$0	(\$154)	(\$154)	\$2,822
4800-0030	Reg Rsrce Ctrs & Area Leads	\$21,021	\$0	(\$2,490)	(\$2,490)	\$18,531
4800-0036	Sexual Abuse Intervention Ntwk	\$740	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$740
4800-0038	Srvcs for Children & Families	\$313,793	(\$2,000)	(\$6,021)	(\$8,021)	\$307,772
4800-0041	Group Care Services	\$229,555	(\$1,839)	(\$3,492)	(\$5,331)	\$226,063
4800-0091	Child Welfare Training Institute	\$3,000	\$0	(\$325)	(\$325)	\$2,675
4800-0151	Alternative Lock-up Program	\$319	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$319
4800-1100	Social Worker - Case Management	\$157,263	(\$1,168)	\$0	(\$1,168)	\$157,263
4800-1400	Domestic Violence Services	\$23,473	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,473
TOTAL		\$836,478	(\$7,226)	(\$15,248)	(\$22,474)	\$821,230

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Areas Affected by Cuts

As a result of funding shortfalls, DCF made reductions in cuts to **service, personnel** and **administrative spending**. Cuts to DCF spending include:

- **\$2.2m in earmarks:** 35 of 47 DCF earmarks were reduced, all earmarks in the 4800-0038 services account were reduced by 50% (with some exceptions).
- **\$5.3m in congregate care:** rollback in statewide utilization of congregate care nearing FY08 levels; intensive foster care services nearing FY08 levels (with some exceptions).
- **\$2.4m in lead agencies and regional resource centers:** suspension of regional resource center contracts (effective 11.30.08), and reduction in lead agency contracts.
- **\$5.6m in community based services:** support and stabilization funded at FY08 statewide expenditure level; \$400k in new program development eliminated; and \$250k funding for the fire setter prevention program eliminated.
- **\$5.2m in cuts to DCF personnel:** reduction in amount of planned growth in social worker positions; an agency hiring freeze (non-social worker positions); reduction of approximately 100 positions across all levels of the Department; and a freeze to management pay raises.
- **\$1.5m in cuts to DCF administrative spending include:** limited scope of DCF external review; moratorium on discretionary administrative spending; reduced training institute spending; delayed potential lease space moves; reduced IT capacity; and more.

DCF Work Plan

We have created a work plan that will allow us to move forward. Elements of the plan include:

- **Budget management and administration:** continue to review the budget line by line to look for further spending controls; revenue maximization strategies; plan for FY2010 budget/spending.
- **Communication and information management:** continue to communicate with internal and external stakeholders about the process.
- **Services:** implement service reductions and contract suspensions.
- **Reorganization and related human resources:** reduce staffing levels; work with labor officials, reassign, outplace and recall personnel planning.
- **Strategic planning:** accelerate our strategic planning process to ensure that our strategic planning activities are aligned with our 9c reductions.

As we move forward with implementation of our work plan, we will watch and monitor impact-metrics, such as:

- % increase in 51A reports and caseloads;
- % decrease in family preservation or reunification rates;
- % increase in need for POS services;
- % increase in number of psych hospitals and kids stuck in psych hospitals;
- % reliance on and wait for congregate care;
- % increase in CHINS; and % increase in adolescents who are homeless or unemployed.

We will review this data on a quarterly basis to insure our responsibilities are being met.

For more information:

Please visit www.mass.gov for a complete listing of the Governor's fiscal action plan

Please email DCF with any questions at: dcfcommissioner@state.ma.us